

In the Official Action, the Examiner required an election of one of the following groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 9, 17-25, 37-46, and 53-62, drawn to a method for providing service to a user via a network, classified in class 705, subclasses 26 and 53.

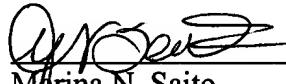
Group II: Claims 26-29, 47-50, and 63-66, drawn to a method for accounting for a fee concerning service provided to a user by a service provider, classified in class 705, subclass 39 and 75.

Group III: Claims 30-36, 51-52, and 67-68, drawn to a method for requesting service of a service provider and storing service request and digital signature in a storage medium, classified in class 705, subclasses 17 and 41.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicant elects to prosecute the claims of Group I. Accordingly, Claims 26-36, 47-52, and 63-68 in Groups II and III have been cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 2, 2001

By: 

Marina N. Saito

Registration No. 42,121

SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL

P.O. Box 061080

Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080

(312) 876-8000